

ment and devices and that various modifications, both as to equipment details and operating procedures, can be accomplished without departing from the scope of the invention itself.

What is claimed is:

1. A flexible, self-supportable impermeable containment apparatus forming an enclosed chamber and having an opening for introducing and removing materials, for the storage, manipulation and transport of biohazardous materials, comprising:

(a) an elongated flexible plastic sheet having a longitudinal seam extending along the length dimension thereof for forming said sheet into a tubular enclosure about said biohazardous material, said enclosure having an outer surface and a first and second closed end, an elongated generally planar bottom surface and an elongated curved transparent upper surface extending thereabove, said enclosure including at least one tubular plastic sleeve means for inserting arms therein positioned on said first end, said enclosure further including a pair of coupling members one disposed on each opposing side thereof closely proximate said planar bottom surface;

(b) self-supporting, removable, tubular support means for maintaining said tubular enclosure in an expanded tent-like state by supporting said enclosure curved upper surface at a midsection thereof above said elongated bottom surface to define the enclosed chamber, said self-supporting tubular support means having opposing ends each adapted to couple to one of said enclosure coupling members to further support the enclosure in the tent-like state;

(c) at least one access means for inserting and removing materials, formed through said sheet; and

(d) means for selectively opening and closing said access means.

2. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said tubular support means is positioned external to said enclosed chamber.

3. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1, further including at least one said tubular plastic sleeve means for inserting arms therein and said access means for inserting and removing materials positioned along said plastic sheet.

4. The impermeable containment as in claim 1 further including at least one said tubular plastic sleeve means for inserting arms therein positioned on said second end.

5. The impermeable containment as in claim 1, wherein said access means is positioned on said plastic sheet.

6. The impermeable containment as in claim 1 wherein said access means is positioned on at least one of said first and second ends.

7. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said access means is sealable.

8. The impermeable containment as in claim 1 wherein said access means is temporarily sealable.

9. The impermeable containment as in claim 1 wherein said access means is resealable.

10. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said storage pouch means is attached to the exterior of said containment.

11. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said plastic sheet further includes at least one storage pouch means for containing tools and

sample containers, said storage pouch means being in the range of 2 mm<sup>2</sup> to 3 m<sup>2</sup>.

12. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said plastic sheet further includes at least one storage pouch means for containing tools and sample containers, said storage pouch means being positioned along said plastic sheet.

13. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said plastic sheet further includes at least one storage pouch means for containing tools and sample containers, said storage pouch means being positioned on at least one of said first and second ends.

14. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a panel of impermeable flexible sheeting bonded to the perimeter of said first end to form a first end panel.

15. The impermeable containment apparatus as in claim 14 further comprising a panel of impermeable flexible sheeting bonded to the perimeter of said second end to form a second end panel.

16. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 1 wherein said tubular support means comprises a flexible rod flexed to couple at each said end to each said respective enclosure coupling member and arcuately extending therebetween to support said enclosure in the expanded tent-like state.

17. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 1 wherein said enclosure includes a pair of said coupling members at each said first and second end of said tubular enclosure, each said pair of coupling members disposed on opposing sides of said enclosure and closely proximate said planar bottom surface.

18. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 17 wherein said tubular support means comprises a pair of flexible rods, one said rod flexed to couple at each said end to one said pair of opposing coupling members and arcuately extending therebetween to support said enclosure in the expanded tent-like state.

19. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 16 or 18 wherein each said rod further includes a clip member at each said end which said clip is adapted to be selectively secured to an examination table.

20. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 16 or 18 wherein each said enclosure coupling member comprises a sleeve integrally formed in said enclosure outer surface for receiving said respective rod therethrough.

21. The impermeable containment apparatus as specified in claim 16 wherein said flexed rod extends closely proximate about said enclosure curved outer surface between said respective enclosure coupling members to define a low-profile apparatus.

22. A flexible, self-supportable impermeable containment apparatus forming an enclosed chamber and having an opening for introducing and removing materials, for the storage, manipulation and transport of biohazardous materials, comprising:

(a) an elongated flexible plastic sheet having a longitudinal seam extending along the length dimension thereof for forming said sheet formed into a tubular enclosure about said biohazardous material, said enclosure having an outer surface and a first and second closed end, an elongated generally planar bottom surface and an elongated curved transparent upper surface extending thereabove, said enclosure having at least one iris-type access port